

REMARKS

I. Status of the Application

Claims 1-16 are all the claims in the application. By this Amendment, Applicant amends claims 1 and 11. No new subject matter has been added. The support can be found for example, on page 29, lines 10-35, page 37, lines 24-25, page 38, lines 1-7, pages 45-48.

Claims 3, 4, and 11-14 have been withdrawn from consideration. If independent claim 1, on which withdrawn claim 3 and 4 depend, is allowed, Applicant respectfully requests rejoinder and allowance of claims 3 and 4.

II. Preliminary Matters

Applicant thanks the Examiner for considering the references listed on the PTO/SB/08 forms submitted with the Information Disclosure Statements filed December 11, 2008, August 29, 2008, and August 17, 2006.

However, the Examiner has not acknowledged Applicant's claim to foreign priority and has not confirmed the receipt of the certified copy of the Priority Document. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested acknowledge Applicant's claim to foreign priority and confirm the receipt of the certified copy of the Priority Document by checking boxes 12(a) and 12(a)(1) on the PTOL-326 form.

Further, the Examiner has not acknowledged the acceptance of the drawings filed August 17, 2006. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested acknowledge the acceptance of the drawings by checking box 10(a) on the PTOL-326 form.

III. Claims Rejections

Claims 1, 2, 5-10, and 15-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Fujimori (US 2001/0030671).

As claimed in claim 1, in one moving and ejecting operation, only one of either the first timing defining signal or the second timing defining signal is to be used, but one raster line is formed by a plurality of times of moving and ejecting operations.

Further, in forming one raster line, at least one or more times of the first timing defining signal and at least one or more times of the second timing defining signal are used. Namely, one

raster line is formed by a plurality of moving and ejecting operations of at least one moving and ejecting operation in the case of using the first timing defining signal and at least one moving and ejecting operation in the case of using the second timing defining signal.

Furthermore, the first timing defining signal makes an ink droplet to be ejected toward a position corresponding to a pixel. On the other hand, the second timing defining signal makes an ink droplet to be ejected toward a position displaced in the intersecting direction from the position corresponding to the pixel. In this way, as shown in Fig. 19, in forming a plurality of pairs of two kinds of pairs of dots in one raster line, two different timing defining signals are applied, and positions of these pairs of dots can be displaced and formed. In this way, unevenness in printing and graininess can be improved, and image quality of a printed image can be improved.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Fujimori does not teach or suggest all of the features of claim 1, as discussed above. It is, therefore, respectfully submitted that **claim 1 and dependent claims 2-10, 15, and 16** are patentable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,
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